

## **2012 EE Conference Field Trips**

### **Hungry Mother State Park**

**Friday, October 26, 2012**



#### **A Rain Garden Tour**

Carol Doss, Upper Tennessee River Roundtable

Travel to Abingdon to see three successful stormwater projects that reduce excess runoff and provide visual appeal. Visit a rain garden at the Creeper Trail, a nearby permeable sidewalk and a complete stormwater management system at a guest house.

#### **Aquatic Wildlife Conservation Center Tour**

Megan Bradley, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

Come visit the Aquatic Wildlife Conservation Center on the banks of the South Fork Holston River just 15 miles away from Hungry Mother State Park. See how Virginia is recovering rare freshwater mussels, the Eastern hellbender- North America's largest salamander and the Spiny River Snail. This is also a great opportunity to take a casual walk to see Appalachian cove habitats dominated by laurel and hemlock.

#### **Flying WILD workshop**

Suzie Gilley, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

Join us for a 3 hour Flying WILD workshop, [www.flyingwild.org](http://www.flyingwild.org), featuring hands-on classroom activities along with information on hosting a school wide bird festival. All participants will receive a copy of the Flying WILD guide.

#### **Hungry Mother Lake Ecological & EE Investigation**

Bill Portlock, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Using the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's experiential learning and "ACE" model (for Active, Connected, and Enthusiastic), join in an exploration and discussion of effective environmental education practices while investigating biotic and abiotic factors at Hungry Mother Lake.

### **Inquiry + Action: Litter Cleanup Events Offer BIG & Lasting Lessons**

Katie Register, Clean Virginia Waterways / Longwood University

Short-term environmental stewardship events can be more meaningful for students by integrating inquiry-based learning. This fun & interactive field trip will explore ways that a litter cleanup event can become a catalyst and increase science and math knowledge too. We will discuss litter, recycling, consumption of disposables, civic responsibility...and we will also make a positive impact on a local stream.

### **Project Underground workshop**

Carol Zokaite, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation - Virginia State Parks

The lessons in the Project Underground guide can be used to teach citizens of all ages about karst topography and the management needs of the karst resources. Use these materials with students in classrooms and in outreach programs with citizens and agency staff. All participants will receive a copy of the Project Underground guide.

### **The Great Channels of Virginia**

Zach Olinger and Lisa Deaton, Virginia Department of Forestry

The Channels State Forest and Natural Area Preserve is comprised of 4836 acres on Clinch Mountain in Washington and Russell counties. The "Great Channels" are a unique and fascinating geologic formation comprised of a network of deep sandstone crevices at the top of the mountain. Participants will enjoy long-range views, see rare high-elevation forest communities, and learn about and discuss the geology and ecology of the area. An added bonus in late October might be the opportunity to observe numerous hawks on their annual migration. Participants should be prepared for a moderately-strenuous 6-mile roundtrip hike that is steep and rocky. Claiborne Woodall, with DCR's Natural Heritage Program, and Zach Olinger of the VA Dept. of Forestry will lead this 6-mile roundtrip hike. DOF will provide 2 vans to transport people to and from Hungry Mother and other parking points. Ellen Reynolds has offered to provide sleeping space and dinner for anyone who wishes to stay overnight at Beagle Ridge Herb Farm & Environmental Center near Rural Retreat. Virginia PLT will provide lunch and dinner for participants. Lisa Deaton will lead parts of the Monitoring Forest Health, Who Owns America's Forests? and Forest Invaders activities from PLT's Focus on Forests module along the hike for those who are interested in obtaining a copy of the module. The hike will continue rain or shine. Bring a water bottle and walking boots. You may also want to bring a camera, rain gear, field guides, and binoculars.

### **Using Prescribed Fire as a Resource Management Tool**

Forrest Atwood, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation – Virginia State Parks

Forrest Atwood, resource management specialist with the Virginia State Parks will lead a moderate, 2.5 mile hike around an area of the park recently treated with prescribed fire. Participants will learn why controlled burning is an important tool in enhancing certain ecological community types.

### **WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands**

Page Hutchinson, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

WOW! is for all types of educators: classroom teachers, refuge managers, nature center interpreters, park service educators, and others. This half day workshop will give participants the opportunity to experience several of the WOW! activities and receive the interdisciplinary curriculum guide that includes more than 50 fun and effective learning-activities for both indoor and outdoor use. These activities are focused around the three wetland parameters of hydric soils, hydrophytic plants and hydrologic regime.